## IN THE CLAIMS

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Claim 23 (amended)

A granulated [isomalt] additive for providing crunch to a chewing gum, wherein said crunch providing additive consists essentially of isomalt, said isomalt additive prepared by a process wherein isomalt is heated at a temperature of above 130°C, cooled to form a solid isomalt product and granulated to a particle size greater than 50 mesh.

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Claim 32 (amended)

A process for the preparation of a granulated [isomalt] additive for providing crunch to a chewing gum, wherein said crunch providing additive consists essentially of isomalt, said process comprising:

- a) heating isomalt at a temperature of 130°C or higher;
- b) cooling to form a solid;
- c) granulating said solid to a particle size greater than 50 mesh.